

Population By Age Group

One of the most significant issues facing policy makers is the aging of the Montana population. As the so-called “baby boomers” reach retirement age, there will be increased pressure placed on programs that serve this age group.

The table demonstrates this concern.

Change in State Population by Age Group (Compares 2003 to 1990)			
Age Group	April 1990 Census	July 1, 2003 Estimate	Percent Change
0 to 9 years	124,634	109,334	-12.3%
10 to 19 years	119,712	135,698	13.4%
20 to 29 years	103,880	119,627	15.2%
30 to 39 years	135,131	107,607	-20.4%
40 to 49 years	103,717	149,567	44.2%
50 to 59 years	71,178	126,962	78.4%
60 to 69 years	66,812	78,152	17.0%
70 to 79 years	49,796	54,286	9.0%
80 years and over	<u>24,205</u>	<u>36,388</u>	50.3%
Total	<u>799,065</u>	<u>917,621</u>	14.8%

Note that the age groups of “40 to 59” have clearly shown the largest increase since 1990. This foreshadows significant workload issues for programs that serve senior citizens. On the other hand, lower growth in other groupings translates to other concerns. For example, the negative growth in the “0 to 9” age group has resulted in continuing declining enrollments in schools.

Another concern regarding the aging population is the impact it will have on the state workforce. Over the next 10 years, there will be an increase in retirements by state workers, resulting in an accelerated drain in knowledge and experience. Certainly, there are younger, although potentially fewer, workers to replace them but an aging population will affect all employers, public, and private. The competition for a qualified workforce among employers may become a factor in the state’s ability to effectively provide some services.

Corrections Population

For fiscal 2003, the average daily population in both secure custody or community supervision was 9,912. This is a 56.7 percent increase over fiscal 1994.

	Fiscal 2003		Fiscal 1994	
	Total	%	Total	%
Secure custody	2,470	24.9%	1,260	19.9%
Community supervision	7,442	75.1%	5,067	80.1%
Total	9,912		6,327	

Violent offenders make up 53 percent of the incarcerated population and 47 percent are considered as nonviolent offenders. The following table shows the top 10 conviction offenses for each gender for FY 1994 - FY 2003:

	Male	Female
1	Theft	Possession of Drugs
2	Burglary	Theft
3	Possession of Drugs	Forgery
4	Sale of Drugs	Bad Check >\$150
5	Felony DUI	Sale of Drugs
6	Bad Check >\$150	Drug Offenses
7	Felony Assault	Felony DUI
8	Forgery	Burglary
9	Sexual Assault	Deceptive Practices
10	Criminal Mischief	Criminal Endangerment

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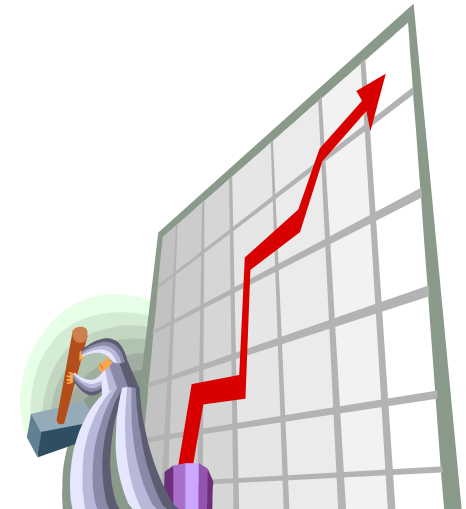
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL DIVISION



FOCUS ON... PERTINENT STATE STATISTICS

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Fiscal Pocket Guide



An aging population and declining school enrollment are just a couple of dynamic trends that state policy makers face.

Primary Contact: Jon Moe
Room 132, State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620-1711
(406) 444-4581
E-mail: jonmoe@mt.gov

Pertinent State Statistics

Montana, with a total area of 147,046 square miles, is the fourth largest state. Its population of 917,621 (2003 estimate) places Montana 44th among all 50 states. Montana has 6.2 persons per square mile while the U.S. average is 82.2. A relatively small population in a very large state contributes to Montana being a great place to live, but it also presents many challenges in delivery of government services and in the overall economic well-being of the state. This brochure includes some of the more basic demographical and statistical information as a primer to understanding the characteristics that demonstrate the challenges that Montana government consistently faces. Data listed is the most current found for this publication but is not necessarily up-to-date. In those instances, the data does provide a sense of magnitude or relativity.

The People Count

Total Population (2003 est.): 917,621
Growth (1990 to 2003): 14.8 percent
(U.S. - 16.9%)
Median Age: 39.0
Males: 49.9 percent Females: 50.1 percent
Persons under 18 years: 23.5 Percent
Persons 65 years and over: 13.6 percent
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+: 90.1 percent
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+: 24.9 percent
Percent of people without health insurance (2003): 16.1% (U.S. 15.1%)

No Shortage of Information

The statistics included here are a sample of information available from various sources, much of which is on the internet in state or federal agency websites. Here is a short list of sites:

<http://ceic.commerce.mt.gov>
<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/>
<http://www.census.gov/>
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/>
<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/>
<http://www.cor.mt.gov/resources/statistics.asp>

Education by the Numbers

Number of school districts:	450
Number of elementary schools:	462
Number of middle, 7&8, junior high school	222
Number of high schools:	175

Public school enrollment has declined in recent years as the number of school-aged children has decreased. The 2003-04 enrollment is shown below, each followed by the high point in enrollment in the past ten years. As enrollments decrease, school funding formulas provide reduced funding for schools, and school officials argue that they need funding for an infrastructure that does not shrink with enrollment decreases.

Public school enrollment	148,356 (165,507 in 1995-96)
Elementary (PreK-8)	99,976 (116,650 in 1993-94)
Secondary (9-12)	48,192 (50,540 in 1998-99)
Student-teacher ratio	14.9 (2001-2002) (15.9 nationally)
Private and home schools	11,735 (2003-2004)
Private schools	
(K-8)	5,721
(9-12)	2,097
Home school	
(K-8)	3,028
(9-12)	889

University System campuses 11

U-System enrollment	32,658 (2003) (full-time equivalents)
Resident	26,220
Nonresident	6,438

Private colleges 3

Public community colleges	3
Enrollment	2,295

Tribally controlled
community colleges 7

Economic Stats

Private nonfarm establishments (2001): 32,294
Private nonfarm employment (2001): 301,460
Civilian labor force (2003): 491,886
Employed (2003): 472,584
Unemployed (2003): 19,302 or 3.9 percent
Gross state product (2001): \$22.64 billion
Manufacturers shipments (1997): \$4.87 billion
Retail sales (2004): \$10.7 billion
Retail sales per capita (2004 est.): \$11,600
Number of farms/ranches: 27,880
Land in farms and ranches: 59.6 million acres
Total housing units (2003): 419,726
Housing units authorized by building permits (2003): 3,567
Federal funds and grants (2002): \$6.97 billion
Total personal income (2003): \$23.7 billion
Per capita personal income (2003): \$25,775 (ranked 45th)
Average annual pay (2000 - Bureau of Labor Statistics): \$24,264 (ranked 50th)
Median household money income (2003): \$34,375 (U.S. - \$43,527)
Median family income (1999): \$40,487
Percent of persons in poverty: 14.0% (U.S. - 12.1%)

Human Services

From Department of Health and Human Services reports for fiscal 2004, average monthly caseloads and fiscal 2004 costs (all funds) are as follows:

TANF cases: 5,427 (14,637 recipients)
\$22.4M
Food stamp cases: 32,544 (76,536 recipients)
\$78.0M
Medicaid recipients based on medical claims: 71,774 \$474.7M
Mental health (state funded) recipients: 1,787 \$4.9M
Mental health (Medicaid) recipients: 7,933 \$80.3M
Children's Health Insurance Program recipients: 10,364 \$15.7M

45,919 recipients (19,287 cases) received low-income energy assistance in fiscal 2004.